



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia Announces Nine Finalists for 26th Annual Virginia Literary Awards

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – Nine finalists have been selected for the 26th Annual Virginia Literary Awards, the commonwealth's premier event for honoring Virginia writers and their contributions to literature.

The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from more than 104 submissions. The winner in each category will be announced during a gala celebration, presented by Dominion Energy and supported by Carole and Marcus Weinstein, at the Library of Virginia on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023. In addition to the award and distinguished recognition, winners in each category receive a monetary prize of \$2,500.

The [2023 Virginia Literary Awards finalists](#) are:

FICTION FINALISTS:

BILL GLOSE | *All the Ruined Men: Stories*

BRUCE HOLSINGER | *The Displacements*

BARBARA KINGSOLVER | *Demon Copperhead*

NONFICTION FINALISTS:

MARGARET EDDS | *What the Eyes Can't See: Ralph Northam, Black Resolve, and a Racial Reckoning in Virginia*

JONATHAN M. KATZ | *Gangsters of Capitalism: Smedley Butler, the Marines, and the Making and Breaking of America's Empire*

BETH MACY | *Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis*

POETRY FINALISTS:

LAURA BYLENOK | *Living Room*

MELANIE MCCABE | *The Night Divers*

GREGORY ORR | *Selected Books of the Beloved*

The finalists for the Library's People's Choice Awards for fiction and nonfiction, announced in a [previous news release](#), will also be recognized. In addition, this year's event will include the presentation of [honorary Patron of Letters degrees](#) to best-selling author David Baldacci and his wife, Michelle, a passionate literacy advocate; renowned poet and educator Nikki Giovanni; and award-winning children's author Meg Medina.

"The Virginia Literary Awards provide an opportunity each year to highlight and celebrate the amazing work of authors who live in or write about Virginia, as well as individuals who have made a remarkable impact on literature and literacy," said Librarian of Virginia Sandra G. Treadway. "This gala has become one of the most eagerly anticipated cultural events in Richmond, drawing individuals inspired by literary excellence from near and far."

The annual gala celebration is the Library's largest fundraising event. In addition to an awards ceremony and dinner, this year's gala will include silent auction packages to raise support for the Library's preservation, education and research initiatives.

For information on tickets, sponsorship or other ways to support the 26th Annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration honoring Virginia authors and friends, visit lvafoundation.org/literaryawards/ or call 804.692.3813.

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ABOUT THE VIRGINIA LITERARY AWARDS

Hosted by award-winning author Adriana Trigiani, the 26th Annual Virginia Literary Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, with nominated authors, presenters and special guests. This annual event, presented by Dominion Energy and supported by Carole and Marcus Weinstein, attracts those who enjoy the written word and support literature. The festivities kick off on Friday, Oct. 13 with Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 3.8 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION

Founded in 1984, the Library of Virginia Foundation supports the Library of Virginia and its mission by raising private financial support, managing its endowment and overseeing programming that brings Virginia's history and culture to life.

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